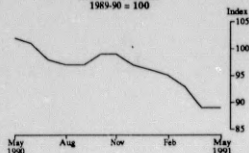


# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 25 July 1991**

*The week in statistics ...*

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EXPORT PRICES  
1989-90 = 100

## Export prices stabilise

Export prices remained unchanged in May 1991, with offsetting increases and decreases finally halting the latest five-month decline in export prices.

The main price increases in May were for wool, cereals and cotton, while there were small decreases for about half the items in the index.

On an annual basis, export prices fell by 12.7 per cent between May 1990 and May 1991.

EXPORT PRICES, MAY 1991

## Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Mineral products	0.0	1.0
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	-2.0	-2.0
Live animals and animal products	2.1	-4.0
Gold, diamonds and coin	0.0	-5.1
Machinery and appliances	-6.1	-8.0
Base metals	-2.2	-10.3
Products of chemicals and allied industries	-3.1	-13.1
Prepared food stuffs	-3.5	-21.0
Vegetable products	4.2	-25.3
Wool and cotton fibres	10.9	-40.8
All exports	0.0	-12.7

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Foreign debt position worsens

Net foreign liabilities at 31 March 1991 totalled \$178.4 million, an increase of 3 per cent on the position at the end of the December quarter.

Australia's net foreign debt of \$133.3 million accounted for three quarters of the level of net foreign liabilities at 31 March 1991. The ratio of net foreign debt to gross domestic product (GDP) for the year ended March quarter 1991 was 35.2 per cent, a rise of 0.6 percentage points on the ratio recorded a quarter earlier.

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION

## \$A thousand million

	Level at end of December 1990	Level at end of March 1991
Foreign investment in Australia		
Borrowing from abroad	163.8	165.4
Other investment	101.0	104.6
Total	264.8	270.0
Australian investment abroad	92.3	91.6
Net international investment position		
Net foreign debt	130.6	133.3
Net other liabilities	41.9	45.1
Total	172.5	178.4

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION  
At end of quarter

There was a net capital inflow of \$4,800 million during the quarter, made up of a net inflow of foreign investment into Australia of \$5,938 million, partly offset by a net outflow of Australian investment abroad of \$1,138 million.

Net investment income payable abroad during the March quarter was \$3,958 million, down \$525 million, or 12 per cent, on the amount payable in the December quarter.

For the year ended March quarter 1991, the ratio of net investment income payable to exports of goods and services was 25.5 per cent, a fall of 1.2 percentage points on the ratio recorded for the year ended December quarter 1990. The ratio of net interest payable on foreign debt to exports of goods and services for the year ended 31 March 1991 was 20.4 per cent, compared with 20.5 per cent for the year ended a quarter earlier.

For further information, order the publication *Foreign Investment, Australia* (5306.0) or contact Frank Bingham on (06) 252 6252.

## Sharp increase in full-time tertiary education numbers

There was a 13 per cent increase in the number of young people attending tertiary education institutions between September 1988 and September 1990.

The education participation rate for people between 15 and 24 years of age increased in the same period from 18.2 per cent to 20.3 per cent. The great bulk of the increase (61,500 out of 62,500) occurred among those attending full time.

Overall in September 1990, 45 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 to 24 were attending an educational institution. Full-time students accounted for 82 per cent of those 1,232,500 undergoing education.

Of those attending an educational institution the largest subgroup was attending school (55%) while 23 per cent were attending higher education institutions, 19 per cent were at TAFE or technical college, and 3 per cent attended other educational institutions.

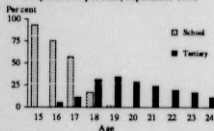
EDUCATION ATTENDANCE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION, SEPTEMBER 1990  
Persons aged 15 to 24  
'000

Educational institution	Males	Females	Persons
Attending school	342.4	336.5	678.9
Attending a tertiary institution			
Higher education	132.0	150.3	282.3
TAFE/technical college	147.4	83.7	231.2
Other	14.0	26.2	40.2
Total tertiary	293.4	260.3	553.6
Total	635.7	596.7	1,232.5

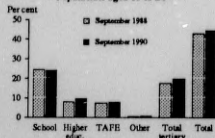
At September 1990, 48.4 per cent of all students in the age group were female, but females had accounted for 83 per cent of the significant increase in attendance at all educational institutions since 1988.

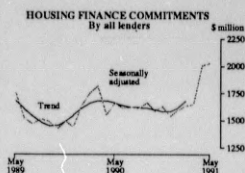
For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance, Australia* (6272.0), or contact Nicolle Wittmann on (06) 252 6578

SCHOOL OR TERTIARY INSTITUTION ATTENDANCE  
Proportion of persons, September 1990



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDANCE  
Population aged 15 to 24





## Home lending rises again

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments for May 1991 totalled \$2,029.5 million, an increase of \$26.6 million (1.3%) on April 1991 and \$370.1 million (22.3%) on May 1990.

The May 1991 increase followed a much sharper rise in April and maintained the upward movement in the seasonally adjusted series which began in January.

While finance for both construction of dwellings and purchase of established dwellings continued to reflect the overall upward movement, there was a small decrease of 1.4 per cent in the purchase of newly erected dwellings.

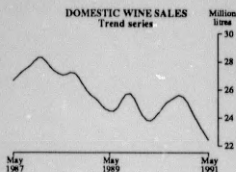
The major contributors to the May increase were permanent building societies, up \$36.0 million or 12.3 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms with banks contributing \$26.4 million, an increase of 1.8 per cent. Other lenders were down by \$35.8 million, a decrease of 14.4 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS  
MAY 1991

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
<i>Type of lender — seasonally adjusted</i>			
All banks	1,487.8	1.8	19.1
Permanent building societies	328.4	12.3	76.8
Other lenders	213.3	- 14.4	- 4.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,029.5</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>22.3</i>
<i>States — original</i>			
New South Wales	964.0	32.1	27.7
Victoria	574.4	25.3	12.1
Queensland	413.8	22.4	20.6
South Australia	170.2	22.5	6.4
Western Australia	226.8	37.3	21.3
Tasmania	42.5	28.8	24.3
Northern Territory	11.1	19.4	- 7.5
Australian Capital Territory	73.1	29.4	56.2
<i>Australia</i>	<i>2,475.8</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>20.8</i>

Seasonally adjusted, finance was provided for 26,714 dwelling units, 297 dwelling units (1.1%) more than in April 1991 and 2,437 dwelling units (10.0%) more than in May 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact Ms Abha Bedi on (06) 252 7117 or John Carson on (06) 252 7110.



## Winemakers boost the export drive but local sales are down

The trend estimate for domestic sales by Australian winemakers has declined for the seventh consecutive month, from 25.6 million litres in October 1990 to 22.4 million litres in May 1991.

The declining trend continued despite a strong 25.5 per cent increase in seasonally adjusted sales in the month of May (original and seasonally adjusted wine sales exhibit considerable variability month on month).

In terms of original data over the eleven months since July 1990, table wine sales declined slightly, by 2.1 per cent compared with the same period in the previous year.

Red table wine had the strongest growth of 6.7 per cent, with a rise of 16.4 per cent in cask sales being the most significant contributor. White wine sales decreased by 3.9 per cent and rosé sales by 9.2 per cent.

In the same time, bulk fermented sparkling wine sales have declined by over one third, causing an overall decline in the sales of sparkling wine of 6.6 per cent. Fortified wine sales also decreased by 6.2 per cent.

DOMESTIC SALES OF AUSTRALIAN WINE BY WINEMAKERS

Wine type	Eleven months ended May 1991 '000 litres	May 1991 '000 litres	Percentage change from previous month
Table	208,274	17,037	12.2
Fortified	27,989	2,834	12.7
Sparkling	27,838	1,429	13.0
Other	7,186	618	33.8
Total wine sales	271,288	21,918	12.8
Total wine sales trend estimate	269,223	22,427	-2.0

Wine exports for the first ten months of the financial year (which are not included in domestic sales figures) are showing exceptional growth. A total of 43 million litres, valued at \$139 million has been exported. This is 46 per cent higher than for the same period last year, and has already topped the previous record year (1988-89). For the same periods, total wine imports of 8.0 million litres and valued at \$42 million, decreased by 11.8 per cent.

Over the three years 1987-88 to 1989-90, the ratio of exports of wine to domestic sales has averaged from 12 to 13 per cent. So far this financial year the ratio is 16 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers* (8504.0), or contact Brian Salisbury on (08) 237 7626.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

**Statistics Weekly**  
25 July 1991

## All the week's releases: 17 to 23 July

### General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., July 1991 (1304.0; \$19.00)

Statistics Weekly, 18 July 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)

Economic Indicators, NSW, June 1991 (1307.1; \$5.00)

Economic Indicators, Qld, July 1991 (1307.3; \$6.00)

Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, July 1991 (1303.6; \$9.00)

Territory Business Indicators, July 1991 (1307.7; \$4.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Investment, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (5306.0; \$16.50)

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., May 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance, Aust., September 1990 (6272.0; \$10.00)

Export Price Index, Aust., May 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., June 1991 (6410.0; \$5.00)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., May 1991 (6415.0; \$10.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, May 1991 (7204.3; \$4.50)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, May 1991 (8361.0; \$6.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, May 1991 (8363.0; \$4.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, May 1991 (8368.0; \$4.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, May 1991 (8369.0; \$4.50)

Building Activity, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (8752.0; \$13.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, April 1991 (8741.3; \$10.00)

Building Activity, Tas., March Qtr 1991 (8752.6; \$8.00)

### Transport

Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Aust., December Qtr 1990 (9206.0; \$14.00)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, May 1991 (9303.5; \$7.00)



## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 6 August 1991

### July

- 24** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
- 25** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
- 26** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, May 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Australia, June 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, June 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)
- 29** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, May 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1991 (5301.0; \$15.00)  
Building Approvals, Australia, June 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
23 July 1991



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (May 91) (trend estimate)	2.7	-1.2	3.4	6.9	-0.3	4.5	n.a.	9.3	2.4
New motor vehicle registrations (May 91)†	-43.6	-26.9	-28.3	-12.6	-19.6	-24.0	-6.7	19.3	-30.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 91)	-1.0	-19.3	9.2	0.2	-11.7	39.6	-30.3	-6.2	-3.3
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 91)	0.8	-30.2	-19.5	2.7	-23.2	-18.8	33.5	-4.2	-13.5
Employed persons (June 91)*	-1.2	-6.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.5	-2.8	4.8	2.8	2.5
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 91)	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 91)	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.8	8.8	4.4	7.6	6.7	7.5
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90)	-2.3	0.9	8.0	-0.7	0.3	29.3	32.8	4.6	2.8

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

# The latest ...

8

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 23 July 1991

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	91,167	95,056	-0.4	1.0
	— 1984-85 prices			61,295	64,415	0.1	-1.5
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	5,736	6,463	-2.9	-11.6
	— 1984-85 prices			4,334	4,880	-3.4	-11.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Jun. 91	7,300	n.a.	n.a.	-10.4
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	May 91	7,553.5	7,580.6	3.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	14,284.8	15,243.0	0.4	-1.3
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		no.	May 91	41,372	37,561	-11.2	-30.7
Dwelling unit approvals		"	May 91	12,568	11,323	10.6	0.7
Value of all building approvals		\$m		2,091	1,757	18.4	-19.1
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	6,021	6,653	-5.1	-12.0
	— 1984-85 prices	"		3,789	4,112	-6.9	-15.0
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937	34,424	-1.9	-4.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"		22,162	23,833	1.5	-7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons (f)		'000	June 91	7,716.7	7,705.7	-0.1	-2.5
Unemployment rate † (f)		%	"	9.0	9.3	-0.1	2.7
Participation rate † (f)		%	"	62.9	63.0	-0.2	-0.8
Job vacancies		'000	May 91	25.1	25.7	-13.4	-49.8
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.1	1.1	-5.9	-18.8
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	214.1	n.a.	-0.2	4.9
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Apr. 91	117.6	n.a.	-1.3	-1.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Apr. 91	110.5	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	-29.1	-32.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 91	564.20	n.a.	1.6	7.5
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		May 91	10.35	n.a.	-0.95	-4.65
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	10.75	n.a.	-0.25	-2.75
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	May 91	4,687	4,463	6.4	8.1
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,986	3,844	-9.1	-1.2
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	701	619	n.a.	163.4
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	419	365	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-833	-857	44.6	34.5
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	n.a.	98.9	-3.3	-6.5
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 91	133,269	n.a.	2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	178,372	n.a.	3.4	7.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
US\$	per SA		May 91	0.7746	n.a.	-0.7	1.7
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.4	n.a.	-0.3	-0.7
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)		million	Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals		'000	Feb. 91	191	178	-6.3	-0.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 24 July 1991. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 25 July 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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